

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 10 and dependent Claims 2-9 and 11-19 based on U.S. Patent No. 5,897,622 and Examiner's Official Notice.

The present Office Action rejects independent Claims 1 and 10 as being unpatentable over Ankireddipally (US Patent No. 6,772,216). Independent Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein to more particularly point out aspects of the present invention. New Claim 20 is added. Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested in view of the above claim amendments and arguments presented below. Applicants assert that Claims 1-20 are patentable over the cited art of record.

35 U.S.C. Section 102 Rejections

The above referenced Office Action rejects Claims 1-19 as being anticipated by Ankireddipally (US Patent No. 6,772,216). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 10 to more particularly point out aspects of the present invention. As recited in Claims 1 and 10, a common instance is for implementing the exchanges, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common instance is

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Serial No. 09/730,612 Art Unit: 3625

a database divided into a plurality of sub-schemas (emphasis added).

Independent Claim 1 know explicitly recites the common instance being implemented on a database. This database is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and each of the exchanges is implemented within a respective one of the sub-schemas providing a respective partial view of the common instance, and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different merchant.

Applicants refer to the specification of the present application at page 14 lines 17 through 23 that recites the attribute wherein each of the exchanges 201-204 can be configured as “sub-schemas” that provide a partial view or customized view of the entire database. Hence, the common instance is “striped” to give the exchange operators their own exchanges (e.g., as in painting a stripe on the data which color codes for the respective owner/operator). In other words, in the present embodiment, the single schema of the common instance 200 is sliced into multiple exchanges 201-204.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that the limitations of the independent Claim 1 and independent Claim 10 describe the division of the schema of the common instance of the database into multiple sub-schemas and the implementation of respective exchanges within respective sub-schemas.

With respect to new Claim 20, Claim 20 recites a plurality of exchanges and a common database for implementing the exchanges within a common schema, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common schema is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is implemented within a respective one of the sub-schemas (emphasis added).

In contrast, Applicants assert that the cited figure 1 and its associated description of the Ankireddipally reference does not show or suggest a common instance being a database divided into a plurality of sub-schemas (emphasis added). The cited reference does not show or suggest a common database for implementing the exchanges within a common schema (emphasis added). The cited reference does not show or suggest the common schema is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is implemented within a respective one of the sub-schemas (emphasis added).

Figure 1 of Ankireddipally shows "a persistent storage service 19" coupled to a plurality of "external data stores 18" for receiving and providing data in XML document format (e.g., column 12 lines 64-67). There is no

disclosure or discussion of any common schema or any advantages obtainable by the use thereof. There is no discussion of dividing the common schema into multiple sub schemas. There is no discussion of implementing the multiple exchanges within respective sub schemas.

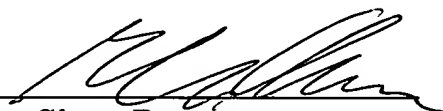
Accordingly, for the rational above, Applicants assert that the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1 and 10 and new Claim 20 is not anticipated within the meaning of 35 USC Section 102 by the Ankireddipally reference.

CONCLUSION

All Claims (1-20) of the present application are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application. Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,
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